REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending.

Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-21, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garg (U.S. 2005/0149374). Claims 6, 14, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garg in view of "Facts for Consumers: Vehicle Repossession" (Federal Trade Commission).

Applicants' Attorney amended claims 1, 9, and 17. No new matter was added:

> In accord with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, once an online repossession assignment is defined by an agent and assigned to a particular contractor, that contractor is automatically presented with the online repossession assignment (i.e., GUI 48) upon the contractor's next login into his or her online account hosted at server computer 12, as represented in Figure 2, block 28.

The References Fail To Teach Each And Every Claimed Limitation

Garg fails to teach, disclose, or suggest automatically presenting at least one vehicle repossession assignment to the contractor upon the contractor's login to the account as generally recited by claims 1, 9, and 17. Garg discloses assigning a tow request to a tow truck via radio, [0079], via pager, [0081], or by sending the tow request to a mobile data terminal, [0080]. Garg teaches away from Applicants' invention as the tow request is sent to the mobile data terminal during the dispatch process, [0080], suggesting that the request is immediately presented to the tow truck. The method of assigning a tow request to an available tow truck as described in [0080] would not be effective if the tow request sent to the mobile data terminal would not be available until the tow truck driver logged in to the system. A tow truck driver may not log in to the system for several hours or days leaving the request for tow unanswered and leaving the dispatcher uncertain as to whether the request for tow has been adequately

assigned. Moreover, Garg is silent as to whether its mobile data terminal requires a log in. See Garg, [0045], [0069-70], [0080].

Garg fails to teach, disclose, or suggest wherein the online account is securely and remotely accessible by the contractor as generally recited by claims 1, 9, and 17. The Examiner asserts that the "system requires login to access information of the system." (Office Action, June 8, 2006, p. 2). The Examiner's interpretation of Garg suggests that Garg's tow truck driver is analogous to the "contractor" of Applicants' invention. As explained above, Garg is silent as to whether its mobile data terminal requires a log in. See Garg, [0045], [0069-70], [0080]. Moreover, Garg states that the "tower would then log into the system, the system controlling access rights given to the login account." Garg, [0043]. Garg's "mobile data terminal" and "tower" are not the same thing. See Garg, [0043-0080]

Garg fails to teach, disclose, or suggest receiving input from the contractor accepting or declining the at least one vehicle repossession assignment as generally recited by claims 2, 10, and 18. Garg is silent as to the manner in which the tow truck driver accepts or declines a tow request. See Garg, [0045], [0069-70], [0080].

Claims 3-8, 11-16, and 19-24 are patentable at least for the reasons claims 1, 9, and 17 are patentable.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Applicants' Attorney submits that the claims are in a condition for allowance. Applicants' Attorney respectfully requests a notice to that effect. Applicants' Attorney also invites a telephone conference if the Examiner believes that it will advance the prosecution of this application.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to Ford Global Technologies LLC Deposit Account No. 06-1510.

Respectfully submitted,

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